

1 **Claims 1 – 125: canceled**

2 **Claims 126-186: canceled**

3 **Claims 187-190: canceled**

1 **191.** (previously presented) The system set forth in claim 211 wherein:

2 there is a plurality of types of model entities; and

3 the graphical user interface shows a model entity's type.

1 **192.** (currently amended) The system set forth in claim 211 wherein:

2 the model further includes representations of further information that are related

3 to certain of the representations of the model entities; and

4 the graphical user interface further permits the ~~user~~-person to access the

5 representations of the related further information via the model entities to which the

6 representations are related.

1 **193.** (currently amended) The system set forth in claim 192 wherein:

2 the graphical user interface further permits the ~~user~~-person to modify the further

3 information.

1 **194.** (previously presented) The system set forth in claim 193 wherein:

2 the further information is a document that is accessible to the system.

1 **195.** (previously presented) The system set forth in claim 193 wherein:

2 the further information is a message sent to the person by another person.

1 **196.** (previously presented) The system set forth in claim 194 wherein:

2 the further information is a discussion concerning the model entity among the

3 persons.

1 197. (previously presented) A data storage device, the data storage device being  
2 characterized in that:

3 the data storage device contains a program which, when executed in ~~a computer~~  
4 ~~system~~ the processor, implements the system set forth in claim 211.

1 198. (currently amended) A method of supporting management of a collaborative  
2 activity by persons involved therein, the persons not being specialists in information  
3 technology and the method being performed in a system which includes a processor and  
4 a storage device accessible to the processor, the storage device ~~processor having access to~~  
5 ~~a database~~ containing a model of the collaborative activity, the model including  
6 representations of model entities, a given representation of a model entity being capable  
7 of simultaneously belonging to hierarchies including a hierarchy and another hierarchy,  
8 and the representations of model entities providing access to information relating to the  
9 collaborative activity, the processor providing an interface for ~~one or more~~ a person of the  
10 ~~persons users of the system who are not specialists in information technology~~, and the  
11 method comprising the steps performed in the system of:

12 receiving a definition of a model entity belonging to the model of the  
13 collaborative activity from a ~~user~~ person of the persons via the interface and responding  
14 thereto by producing a representation of the model entity in the ~~database~~ storage device;  
15 and

16 receiving a first indication of a first hierarchical relationship between the model  
17 entity and another model entity belonging to the hierarchy from the ~~user~~ person via the  
18 interface and responding thereto by relating the model entity to the other model entity in  
19 the hierarchy and

20 receiving a second indication of a second hierarchical relationship between the  
21 model entity and a third model entity belonging to the other hierarchy from the ~~user~~  
22 person via the interface and responding thereto by relating the model entity to the third  
23 model entity in the other hierarchy.

1 199. (previously presented) The method set forth in claim 198 further comprising the  
2 step of:

3 | receiving an indication from the ~~user~~person via the interface that one or the other  
4 of the hierarchical relationships is to be shown in the interface and responding thereto by  
5 showing the indicated relationship in the interface.

1 200. (previously presented) The method set forth in claim 198 wherein:  
2 the hierarchy and the other hierarchy are different types of hierarchical  
3 relationships.

1 201. (currently amended) The method set forth in claim 200 wherein the method  
2 further comprises the steps of:

3 | receiving a third indication from the ~~user~~person via the interface of the type of  
4 hierarchical relationship to be used in displaying the model entity in the interface; and  
5 responding thereto by displaying the model entity in the interface using the  
6 indicated hierarchical relationship.

1 202. (previously presented) The method set forth in claim 199 wherein:  
2 the indicated hierarchical relationship is shown in the interface by displaying  
3 model entities as sorted by the relationship.

1 203. (currently amended) The method set forth in claim 198 wherein the representation  
2 of the model entity includes a representation of information about the collaborative  
3 activity and

4 the method further comprises the steps of:

5 receiving a third indication of the model entity from the person via the interface;

6 | receiving a fourth indication of the information from the ~~user~~person via the  
7 interface; and

8 responding thereto by producing the representation of the information in the  
9 interface as part of the representation of the model entity in the interface.

1 204. (currently amended) The method set forth in claim 203 further comprising the  
2 steps of:

3 | receiving a fifth indication from the userperson via the interface that the  
4 | information in the representation of the information in the representation of the model  
5 | entity is to be displayed; and  
6 | responding thereto by showing the indicated information in the interface.

1 | 205. (currently amended) The method set forth in claim 203 further comprising the  
2 | step of:

3 | receiving a sixth ~~information~~-indication from the userperson via the interface that  
4 | the information in the representation of the information in the representation of the model  
5 | entity is to be modified; and  
6 | responding thereto by permitting the userperson to modify the information.

1 | 206. (currently amended) The method set forth in claim 203 further comprising the  
2 | steps of:

3 | receiving a sixth indication from the userperson via the interface that the model  
4 | entities are to be sorted by values of the information in the representation of the  
5 | information in the representation of the model entity; and  
6 | responding thereto by showing the sorted model entities in the interface.

1 | 207. (currently amended) The method set forth in claim 198 further comprising the  
2 | steps of:

3 | receiving a third indication from the userperson via the interface of a model  
4 | entity;  
5 | receiving a fourth indication that further information is to be related to the  
6 | indicated model entity; and  
7 | responding thereto by relating a representation of the further information to the  
8 | representation of the indicated model entity.

1 208. (currently amended) The method set forth in claim 207 further comprising the  
2 steps of:

3 receiving a fifth indication from the ~~user~~person via the interface that the further  
4 information related to the model entity is to be displayed; and  
5 responding thereto by showing the related further information in the interface.

1 209. (currently amended) The method set forth in claim 208 further comprising the  
2 steps of:

3 receiving a sixth indication from the ~~user~~person via the interface that the further  
4 information related to the model entity is to be modified; and  
5 responding thereto by modifying the related further information.

1 210. (currently amended) A data storage device, the data storage device being  
2 characterized in that:

3 the data storage device contains a program which, when executed in ~~a computer~~  
4 ~~system~~the processor, implements the method set forth in claim 198.

1 211. (currently amended) A system for supporting management of a collaborative  
2 activity by persons involved therein, the persons not being specialists in information  
3 technology, the system being implemented using a processor and a storage device  
4 accessible to the processor, and the system comprising:

5 a representation of a model of the collaborative activity in the storage device, ~~the~~  
6 ~~representation being accessible to a processor and~~ the model of the collaborative activity  
7 including model entities, the model entities providing access to information concerning  
8 the collaborative activity, being organized into a plurality of hierarchies having a  
9 plurality of types, and a given model entity being capable of simultaneously belonging to  
10 a hierarchy having one of the types and a hierarchy having another of the types; and

11 a graphical user interface for the system, the graphical user interface being  
12 provided by the processor ~~which the processor provides to the persons, the graphical~~  
13 ~~user interface permitting~~ a person of the persons, the processor providing outputs via the  
14 graphical user interface to the person and responding to inputs via the graphical user

15 | interface from the person to by performing operations on a model entity as limited by a  
16 type of access which the person has to the model entity, the operations including  
17 controlling access to the model entity, creating, modifying, and/or deleting the model  
18 entity, assigning the model entity to a location in a hierarchy, accessing and/or modifying  
19 the information concerning the collaborative activity via the model entity, viewing model  
20 entities as ordered by a hierarchy to which the entities belong, and viewing model entities  
21 as ordered by a value in the information concerning the collaborative activity to which  
22 the entities give access.

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